

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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11

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01

/114 W

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O 160450Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 812

INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAINLA PRIORITY

CDR 13TH ADVON UDORN PRIORITY

CDR JCRC NKP PRIORITY

JCS

DIA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

SAMEMBASSY SAIGON 244

CDR 13AF CLARK AFB

CDR USSAG NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 7129

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJ: POW/MIA - LAOS: RELEASE OF EMMET KAY

REF: A) VIENTIANE 7109

B) VIENTIANE 7122

1. PATHET LAO JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE ACCORDS
SPOKESMAN, COLONEL PHAO BOUNNAPHOL, INFORMED EMBOFFS
SEPTEMBER 16 THAT EMMET KAY WILL BE RELEASED SEPTEMBER 18
REPEAT SEPTEMBER 18, ONE DAY AHEAD OF GENERAL RELEASE OF
PRISONERS AT PHONG SAVAN ON SEPTEMBER 19. PHAO SAID
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DECISION OF CENTRAL COMMISSION WAS A RESULT OF EMBASSY

DEMARCHES TO HIM AND TO SOTH PHETRASY ON SEPTEMBER 13-14 (REFTELS).

2. PHAO STATED THAT THE LPF ARE STILL TRYING TO OBTAIN THE SOVIET AN-2 TO FLY KAY FROM VIENG XAY TO VIENTIANE, AND, IF THE AN-2 IS USED, IT WOULD HAVE TO STOP IN LUANG PRABANG ENROUTE TO VIENTIANE FOR APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES TO GAS UP. HE ADDED THAT, IF THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT IS NOT AVAILABLE, THE CENTRAL COMMISSION IS WILLING TO HAVE THE BRITISH EMBASSY BEAVER, OR, AS A LAST RESORT, A CIVILIAN CONTRACT AIRCRAFT TO BRING KAY OUT. HE PROMISED TO LET US KNOW TODAY WHETHER AN-2 WILL BE AVAILABLE.

3. ON QUESTION OF AN AMERICAN ESCORT OFFICER TO ACCOMPANY KAY FROM VIENG XAY, PHAO STATED THAT A DECISION HAS YET TO BE MADE AND THAT HE WOULD INFORM EMBOFF AS SOON AS ONE IS TAKEN. HE ADDED THAT MR. KAY WOULD BE HANDED OVER TO U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS AT WATTAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DURING AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 18. ACCORDING TO PHAO, THE ONLY THING WHICH COULD DELAY THE RELEASE OF KAY WOULD BE BAD FLYING WEATHER IN THE SAM NEUA AREA.

4. PHAO STATED THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF KAY'S RELEASE WOULD BE MADE TO PRESS ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, AFTER LISTS HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A PRESIDENTIAL RELEASE AND A STATE/DOD BRIEFING, BOTH DEALING WITH UPCOMING LAOS PRISONER EXCHANGE, ARE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 16. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, IT APPEARS HIGHLY DESIRABLE IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING TO POSTPONE THOSE EVENTS UNTIL EMMET KAY HAS BEEN RELEASED.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MIA, POW, AIR TRANSPORTATION, POW RETURN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENTI07129
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740258-0472
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740940/aaaabigx.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DPW
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) VIENTIANE 7109
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POW/MIA - LAOS: RELEASE OF EMMET KAY
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, LA, VN, (KAY, EMMET)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005